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- and -

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Counsel to the Debtors and Debtors in Possession

> IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA RICHMOND DIVISION

- - - - - - - - - X

: Chapter 11 In re:

CIRCUIT CITY STORES, INC., : Case No. 08-35653 (KRH)

et al.,

Debtors. : Jointly Administered

- - - - - - - - x

DEBTORS' MOTION, PURSUANT TO BANKRUPTCY CODE SECTIONS 105 AND 363 AND BANKRUPTCY RULE 9019, FOR ORDER APPROVING SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND STIPULATION BY AND AMONG THE DEBTORS AND THE PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

Circuit City Stores, Inc. ("Circuit City") and its subsidiary debtors and debtors in possession in the above-captioned jointly administered cases (collectively with Circuit City, the "Debtors") hereby move (the "Motion"), pursuant to sections 105 and 363 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code") and Rule 9019 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"), for entry of an order (the "Order") approving the settlement agreement and stipulation (the "Settlement Agreement") by and among the Debtors and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (the "PBGC" and together with the Debtors, the "Parties" and each of which is a "Party"). In support of the Motion, the Debtors respectfully represent:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This Court has jurisdiction to consider this Motion under 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334. This is a

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The Debtors and the last four digits of their respective taxpayer identification numbers are as follows: Circuit City Stores, Inc. (3875), Circuit City Stores West Coast, Inc. (0785), InterTAN, Inc. (0875), Ventoux International, Inc. (1838), Circuit City Purchasing Company, LLC (5170), CC Aviation, LLC (0841), CC Distribution Company of Virginia, Inc. (2821), Circuit City Properties, LLC (3353), Kinzer Technology, LLC (2157), Abbott Advertising Agency, Inc. (4659), Patapsco Designs, Inc. (6796), Sky Venture Corp. (0311), PRAHS, Inc.(n/a), XSStuff, LLC (9263), Mayland MN, LLC (6116), Courchevel, LLC (n/a), Orbyx Electronics, LLC (3360), and Circuit City Stores PR, LLC (5512). The address for Circuit City Stores West Coast, Inc. is 9250 Sheridan Boulevard, Westminster, Colorado 80031. For all other Debtors, the address was 9950 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23233 and currently is 4951 Lake Brook Drive, Glen Allen, VA 23060.

core proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 157(b). Venue of these cases and this Motion in this district is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.

2. The statutory and legal predicates for the relief requested herein are Bankruptcy Code sections 105 and 363 and Bankruptcy Rule 9019.

BACKGROUND

A. General Case Background.

- 3. On November 10, 2008 (the "Petition

 Date"), the Debtors filed voluntary petitions in this

 Court for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 4. The Debtors continue to manage and operate their businesses as debtors in possession pursuant to Bankruptcy Code sections 1107 and 1108.
- 5. On November 12, 2008, the Office of the United States Trustee for the Eastern District of Virginia appointed a statutory committee of unsecured creditors (the "Creditors' Committee"). To date, no trustee or examiner has been appointed in these chapter 11 cases.
- 6. On January 16, 2009, the Court authorized the Debtors, among other things, to conduct going out of

business sales at the Debtors' remaining 567 stores

pursuant to an agency agreement (the "Agency Agreement")

between the Debtors and a joint venture, as agent (the
"Agent"). On January 17, 2009, the Agent commenced

going out of business sales pursuant to the Agency

Agreement at the Debtors remaining stores. As of March

8, 2009, the going out of business sales at the Debtors'

remaining stores had been completed.

B. The Plan.

- 7. On September 29, 2009, the Debtors and the Creditors Committee filed the First Amended Joint Plan of Liquidation of Circuit City Stores, Inc. and its Affiliated Debtors and Debtors In Possession and its Official Committee of Creditors Holding General Unsecured Claims (the "Plan"). The associated disclosure statement (the "Disclosure Statement") was approved on September 24, 2009, and confirmation on the Plan is currently scheduled for November 23, 2009.
- 8. Generally, the Plan provides for the liquidation of the Debtors under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.

RELIEF REQUESTED

9. By this Motion, the Debtors, with the support of the Creditors' Committee, request that the Court approve the Settlement Agreement under Bankruptcy Code section 105 and 363, as well as Bankruptcy Rule 9019.

BASIS FOR RELIEF

A. The Debtors' Pension Plan.

- 10. The Debtors previously maintained the Retirement Plan of Circuit City Stores, Inc. (as amended, the "Pension Plan") to provide retirement benefits for certain of its employees. The Pension Plan was established effective September 1, 1980, and was amended and restated as of March 1, 2001.
- 11. The Pension Plan is an employee pension benefit plan to which 29 U.S.C. § 1321(a) applies and is not exempt under 29 U.S.C. § 1321(b). The Pension Plan is therefore covered by Title IV of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, 29 U.S.C. §§ 1301-1461 ("ERISA").
- 12. Prior to the Petition Date, the Pension Plan was frozen twice. First, effective February 28,

2005, the Pension Plan was frozen as to most of the Debtors' employees. As a result, all participants affected by the plan freeze retained any benefits accumulated to the effective date, but were no longer eligible to increase their benefit. Second, effective February 29, 2008, the Pension Plan was frozen as to the remainder of the Debtors' employees, upon which date all plan participants retained any benefits accumulated to the effective date, but were no longer eligible to increase their benefit.

B. Termination Of The Pension Plan.

- provided the Debtors with a Notice of Determination, stating PBGC's determination that the Pension Plan had to be terminated in order to protect the interests of the Pension Plan's participants and stating its intention to seek termination of the Pension Plan under 29 U.S.C. section 1342, either by agreement with Debtor, Circuit City Stores, Inc., as plan administrator, or by court action.
- 14. On May 21, 2009, the plan administrator signed a Termination and Trusteeship Agreement

("Termination Agreement") with respect to the Pension Plan. PBGC signed the Termination agreement on or about May 26, 2009. Under the Termination Agreement, the Pension Plan was terminated and PBGC was appointed statutory trustee of the Pension Plan pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 1342, and March 31, 2009 (the "Termination Date"), was established as the date of plan termination pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 1348. As a result of the Pension Plan termination and PBGC's appointment as statutory trustee, PBGC assumed the assets and liabilities of the Pension Plan and is responsible for paying benefits under the Pension Plan, up to the levels permitted by law.

15. On the Termination Date, the Pension Plan had approximately 22,000 participants. No due and unpaid contributions were owed to the Pension Plan, but PBGC estimated that the difference between the present value of Pension Plan assets on March 31, 2009, and the value of benefit liabilities under the plan as determined under Title IV of ERISA (the "Unfunded Benefit Liabilities") as of March 31, 2009, was \$36,900,000.00.

C. The PBGC Claims.

- proofs of claim, which claims it later amended, in each of the Debtors' cases (collectively, the "PBGC Claims"). Specifically, the PBGC filed amended proofs of claim numbered (i) 14470 (the "Minimum Funding Claim"), (ii) 14491 (the "Unfunded Benefit Liabilities Claim"), and (iii) 14471 (the "Premium Claim"), each of which is asserted individually against each of the Debtors. The PBGC also contends that the Debtors are jointly and severally liable for all of the PBGC Claims.
- 17. The Minimum Funding Claim was filed on account of minimum contributions allegedly due, but unpaid, under the Pension Plan. The PBGC filed such Claim in the amount of \$0.00, but reserved its right to further amend the proof of claim.
- 18. The Unfunded Benefit Liabilities Claim asserts liability for the Pension Plan's alleged
 Unfunded Benefit Liabilities measured as of March 31,
 2009 -- the date of the Pension Plan's termination.
 Based on PBGC's calculation under ERISA and its
 accompanying regulations (the "Regs"), PBGC alleges that

the Pension Plan's Unfunded Benefit Liabilities are \$36,900,000.00.

- The Premium Claim was bifurcated into two 19. claims -- the Annual Premium Claim and the Termination Premium Claim. The Annual Premium Claim was filed as an administrative expense and seeks payment of annual flatrate and variable-rate premiums allegedly arising under 29 U.S.C. § 1306(a)(3) after the petition date. The flat-rate premium is a flat dollar amount per participant per year, which is currently \$33.00. U.S.C. § 1306(a)(3)(A). The variable-rate premium is \$9.00 for each \$1,000.00 of the plan's unfunded vested benefits each year. 29 U.S.C. § 1306(a)(3)(E). PBGC asserts that the total amount of unpaid flat-rate and variable-rate premiums for the Pension Plan equals \$159,076.00.
- 20. The Termination Premium Claim was filed on account of termination premiums allegedly due under 29 U.S.C. § 1306(a)(7) (the "Termination Premiums").

 See Statement of the Pension Benefit Guaranty

 Corporation in Support of its Amended Claim for Pension Insurance Premiums, at ¶ 7. Termination Premiums total

- \$1,250 for each participant in a pension plan immediately before the plan termination, and are due for a period of three years. In the case of the Pension Plan, there were approximately 22,000 participants prior to its termination. Based on these figures, PBGC asserts that the Debtors are liable for Termination Premiums totaling \$82,091,250.00.
- 21. The Debtors assert that each of the PBGC Claims described above should be disallowed, reclassified as a general unsecured claim, or allowed in a significantly reduced amount pursuant to applicable law.
- 22. Rather than engage in protracted litigation with PBGC and in light of the costs, risks and delays associated with litigating the outstanding disputes between the Parties, the Debtors determined to settle such disputes with PBGC. After arms-length negotiations, the Debtors and PBGC have agreed to resolve their disputes in accordance with the terms of the Settlement Agreement, as further described below.

THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT²

- 23. Pursuant to the terms of the Settlement Agreement, which is attached hereto as Exhibit A, the parties agreed as follows:
 - (a) Settlement Payment. The PBGC shall have an allowed claim equal to \$33.5 million in case no. 08-35653 (KRH) which shall be paid in the full amount of \$33.5 million (the "Settlement Payment"). The entire Settlement Payment will be paid to the PBGC within ten (10) business days after entry of an order by the Bankruptcy Court approving the Settlement Agreement.
 - (b) The Plan. The PBGC will neither vote to accept nor reject the First Amended Joint Plan of Liquidation of Circuit City Stores, Inc. and its Affiliated Debtors and Debtors In Possession and its Official Committee of Creditors Holding General Unsecured Claims (the "Plan"), which was filed by the Debtors on September 29, 2009.
 - (c) The Debtors will add the following language to the Plan: notwithstanding anything in the Plan or the Confirmation Order, no claims, obligations, suits, judgments, damages, demands, debts, rights, causes of action or liabilities whatsoever against any entity, except the Debtors, Digital Video Express, LP, and the Debtors' foreign affiliates, with respect to the Pension Plan shall be released, exculpated, discharged, enjoined, or otherwise

This section of the Motion is intended as a summary of the Settlement Agreement and is qualified in all respects by the terms of the Settlement Agreement. To the extent that any description of the Settlement Agreement contained herein conflicts with the terms of the Settlement Agreement, the Settlement Agreement shall control in all respects.

effected by the Plan, nor shall the entry of the Confirmation Order constitute the approval of any release, exculpation, discharge, injunction, or other impairment of any claims obligations, suits, judgments, damages, demands, debts, rights, cause of action or liabilities whatsoever against any entity, except the Debtors, Digital Video Express, LP, and the Debtors' foreign affiliates, with respect to the Pension Plan.

- (d) Release by PBGC. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in paragraph (c) above, the Plan or the Confirmation Order, the PBGC will release, waive, and discharge the Debtors' directors and officers from and against all claims, obligations, suits, judgments, damages, demands, debts, rights, causes of action, and liabilities with respect to the Pension Plan; provided, however, that nothing in the Settlement Agreement shall constitute a release, waiver, or discharge of any such claims, obligations, suits, judgments, damages, demands, debts, rights, causes of action, or liabilities arising under Title I of ERISA for breaches of fiduciary duty (the "Preserved Claim") against the Debtors' directors or officers; provided, however, damages, if any, from the Preserved Claim shall, at most, be limited to and capped at the difference between (i) the Settlement Payment and (ii) the Pension Plan's total unfunded benefit liabilities as determined in accordance with ERISA. Nothing in this paragraph or the Settlement Agreement shall be construed as or constitute an admission of liability for the Preserved Claim or otherwise by the Debtors' directors or officers.
- (e) Release of Claims. Except with regard to the Preserved Claim, upon payment of the Settlement Payment, the PBGC Claims, together with any other claims obligations, suits,

judgments, damages, demands, debts, rights, causes of action, and liabilities against the Debtors (or Digital Video Express, LP or the Debtors' foreign affiliates) held by PBGC, shall be deemed fully and finally satisfied.

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY

- I. THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT SHOULD BE APPROVED UNDER BANKRUPTCY RULE 9019 AND BANKRUPTCY CODE SECTION 105.
- 24. Bankruptcy Rule 9019 provides that the Court "may approve a compromise or settlement."

 Compromises are tools for expediting the administration of the case and reducing administrative costs and are favored in bankruptcy. See In re Bond, 1994 U.S. App.

 Lexis 1282, *9-*14 (4th Cir. 1994)("To minimize litigation and expedite the administration of a bankruptcy estate, 'compromises are favored in bankruptcy'."); Fogel v. Zell, 221 F.3d 955, 960 (7th Cir. 2000); In re Martin, 91 F.3d 389, 393 (3d Cir. 1996). Various courts have endorsed the use of Bankruptcy Rule 9019. See, e.g., Bartel v. Bar Harbour Airways, Inc., 196 B.R. 268 (S.D.N.Y. 1996).
- 25. The standards by which a court should evaluate a settlement are well established. In addition

to considering the proposed terms of the settlement, the court should consider the following factors:

- (a) the probability of success in litigation;
- (b) the difficulty in collecting any judgment that may be obtained;
- (c) the complexity of the litigation involved, and the expense inconvenience and delay necessarily attendant to it; and
- (d) the interest of creditors and stockholders and a proper deference to their reasonable views of the settlement.

See Protective Comm. for Indep. Stockholders of TMT
Trailer Ferry, Inc. v. Anderson, 390 U.S. 414, 424-245
(1968); In re Frye, 216 B.R. 166, 174 (E.D. Va. 1997);
United States ex. Rel. Rahman v. Oncology Assoc., P.C.,
269 B.R. 139, 152 (D. Md. 2001).

26. The decision to approve a settlement or compromise is within the discretion of the court and is warranted where the settlement is found to be reasonable and fair in light of the particular circumstances of the case. See TMT Trailer Ferry, 390 U.S. at 424-25. The settlement need not be the best that the debtor could have achieved, but need only fall "within the reasonable range of litigation possibilities." In re Telesphere

Communications, Inc., 179 B.R. 544, 553 (Bankr. N.D. Ill. 1994). In making its determination, a court should not substitute its own judgment for that of the debtor and should defer to the debtor so long as there is a reasonable business justification. See In re Martin, 91 F.3d at 395; In re Jasmine, Ltd., 258 B.R. 119, 123 (D.N.J. 2000). The court should exercise its discretion "in light of the general public policy favoring settlements." In re Hibbard Brown & Co., Inc., 217 B.R. 41, 46 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1998); Nellis v. Shugrue, 165 B.R. 115, 23 (S.D.N.Y. 1994) ("[T]he general rule [is] that settlements are favored and, in fact, encouraged by the approval process outlined above.").

27. Here, approval of the Settlement

Agreement is warranted because each factor in TMT

Trailer Ferry weighs in favor of approving the

Settlement Agreement or is neutral. First, although the

Debtors believe that they would likely be successful in

litigation with the PBGC, with all litigation there are

risks. Furthermore, even if the Debtors were ultimately

successful in asserting some or all of their arguments,

they would likely prevail only after significant complex litigation.

- 28. Second, because the Debtors would not be collecting money from PBGC, there are no risks associated with collecting judgment. Consequently, this factor is neutral.
- 29. Third, litigation with PBGC would be complex and would involve claim disputes, as well as confirmation disputes.
- Debtors object to each of the Claims. With respect to the Unfunded Benefit Liabilities Claim, the Debtors contend that such claim is substantially overestimated by PBGC because of the valuation methodology utilized by PBGC. This dispute would involve resolving complicated legal issues and, if the Debtors were successful in that regard, fact and expert discovery and testimony.

 Moreover, it is likely that litigation concerning the Unfunded Benefit Liabilities Claim would involve various appeals.
- 31. The Debtors also dispute both components of the Premium Claim the Annual Premiums and the

Termination Premiums. With respect to the Annual Premium portion of the Premium Claim, the Debtors contend that PBGC has not satisfied its burden of demonstrating that the Annual Premiums should be afforded administrative expense priority. As a result, the Annual Premiums should be reclassified to a general unsecured claim.

32. With respect to the Termination Premium portion of the Premium Claim, such (i) should be disallowed in its entirety because the Termination Premiums do not form the basis of a "claim" as that term is used in 11 U.S.C. § 101(5)(A) of the Bankruptcy Code, or (ii) should be characterized as a penalty under applicable law and equitably subordinated to the allowed claims of all other unsecured creditors. As the Termination Premiums resulted from recent amendments to ERISA, the law surrounding them is unsettled. Consequently, similar to litigation involving the Unfunded Benefit Liabilities Claim, litigation with respect to the Termination Premiums would likely involve appeals.

- 33. PBGC has also informally objected to the Plan on several grounds. Any objection by PBGC would likely involve significant and costly fact and expert discovery, as well as a contested confirmation hearing. By resolving the PBGC Claims according to the terms of the Settlement Agreement, PBGC has agreed not to object to confirmation of the Plan.
- 34. Fourth, and finally, the Debtors believe that the Settlement Agreement will enable the Debtors to beneficially reconcile their current disputes with PBGC without instituting complex litigation proceedings, thereby avoiding the attendant costs, delays and uncertainty. This savings will directly inure to the benefit of the Debtors' creditors and other stakeholders. Moreover, the Debtors have settled the PBGC Claims for an amount substantially less than their asserted amount.
- 35. Based on the foregoing, the Debtors submit that the proposed Settlement Agreement is beneficial to their estates and their creditors.

 Moreover, the Settlement Agreement represents a compromise that is fair and equitable, falls well within

the range of reasonableness, and satisfies the standards for approval under applicable law.

- 36. Accordingly, for the reasons detailed herein, approval of the Settlement Agreement is warranted under Bankruptcy Rule 9019.
- 37. Finally, Bankruptcy Code section 105 provides in pertinent part that "[t]he court may issue any order, process, or judgment that is necessary or appropriate to carry out the provisions of this title."

 11 U.S.C. § 105(a). As noted above, approval of the relief requested herein furthers the Debtors' efforts to minimize the risk of litigation and to resolve claims in a manner that benefits the Debtors and is fair and equitable to other parties in interest. Accordingly, approval of the Settlement Agreement is justified under Bankruptcy Code section 105.

II. ENTRY INTO THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT IS WARRANTED UNDER BANKRUPTCY CODE SECTION 363(B)(1).

38. Under Bankruptcy Code section 363, a bankruptcy court is empowered to authorize a chapter 11 debtor to expend funds in the bankruptcy court's discretion outside the ordinary course of business. See

- 11 U.S.C. § 363. In order to obtain approval for the use of estate assets outside the ordinary course of business, the debtor must articulate a valid business justification for the requested use. See In re Tubular Technologies, LLC, 372 B.R. 820, 822 (Bankr. D.S.C. 2007) ("For the Court to approve the Motion, it must determine that a good business reason exists to use the estate's funds "); In re WBQ P'ship, 189 B.R. 97, 102 (Bankr. E.D. Va. 1995) (noting that a debtor or trustee must have valid business justification for selling or using property of the estate outside of the ordinary course of business); In re Ionosphere Clubs, Inc., 98 B.R. 174, 176 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. 1985) (same).
- 39. In making this determination, the court should consider all of the facts and circumstances and "act to further the diverse interests of the debtor, creditors and equity holders." Tubular Technologies, 372 B.R. at 822.
- 40. Approval of the Settlement Agreement is appropriate in order to facilitate an expedient and orderly liquidation of the Debtors' assets for the benefit of the Debtors' estates and all of their

stakeholders. In the event the Debtors did not prevail in litigation with PBGC, the PBGC Claims could be allowed in the amounts asserted -- approximately \$120 million -- in its various amended proofs of claim.

Moreover, the PBGC contends that all of the Debtors are jointly and severally liable in connection with each of the PBGC Claims.

- 41. The Settlement Agreement ensures that PBGC will not object to confirmation of the Plan and thereby remove one potential challenge to confirmation. Moreover, the Settlement Payment is significantly less than the aggregate total of all sums sought by the PBGC, as well as each of the Unfunded Benefit Liabilities Claim and Premium Claim standing alone.
- 42. Based on the foregoing, the Debtors submit sound business reasons exist to justify entry into Settlement Agreement and payment of the Settlement Payment. Moreover, the Debtors submit that such actions are beneficial to their estates and their creditors. Accordingly, granting the relief requested herein is justified under Bankruptcy Code section 363.

NOTICE

43. Notice of this Motion has been provided to those parties entitled to notice under this Court's Order Pursuant to Bankruptcy Code Sections 102 and 105, Bankruptcy Rules 2002 and 9007, and Local Bankruptcy Rules 2002-1 and 9013-1 Establishing Certain Notice, Case Management, and Administrative Procedures (Docket No. 130). The Debtors submit that, under the circumstances, no other or further notice need be given.

WAIVER OF MEMORANDUM OF LAW

44. Pursuant to Local Bankruptcy Rule 90131(G), and because there are no novel issues of law
presented in the Motion and all applicable authority is
set forth in the Motion, the Debtors request that the
requirement that all motions be accompanied by a
separate memorandum of law be waived.

NO PRIOR REQUEST

45. No previous request for the relief sought herein has been made to this Court or any other court.

CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, the Debtors respectfully request that the Court grant the relief requested herein and such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

Dated: October 5, 2009
Richmond, Virginia

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Counsel for Debtors and Debtors in Possession

EXHIBIT A
(Settlement Agreement)

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Counsel to the Debtors and Debtors in Possession

> IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA RICHMOND DIVISION

- - - - - - - - - x : Chapter 11 In re: CIRCUIT CITY STORES, INC., : Case No. 08-35653 (KRH) et al., Debtors. : Jointly Administered - - - - - - - - - x

ORDER PURSUANT TO BANKRUPTCY CODE SECTIONS 105 AND 363 AND BANKRUPTCY RULE 9019, FOR ORDER APPROVING SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND STIPULATION BY AND AMONG THE DEBTORS AND THE PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

Upon the motion (the "Motion") of the Debtors for entry of an order, pursuant to Bankruptcy Code

 $^{^{1}}$ Each capitalized term not otherwise defined herein shall have the meaning ascribed to it in the Motion.

sections 105(a) and 363 and Bankruptcy Rule 9019
approving the settlement agreement and stipulation (the
"Settlement Agreement") by and among the Debtors and the
Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (the "PBGC" and
together with the Debtors, the "Parties" and each of
which is a "Party"), and the Court having reviewed the
Motion; and after due deliberation thereon; and good and
sufficient cause appearing therefor, it is hereby

FOUND AND DETERMINED THAT:

- A. The Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334;
- B. This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2) and venue in this district is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409;
- C. Proper and adequate notice the Motion has been given under the circumstances, and no other or further notice is necessary;
- F. Resolution of the disputes between and among the Debtors and the PBGC as set forth in the Settlement Agreement attached hereto as Exhibit A is (i) fair and reasonable and (ii) a reasonable exercise of the Debtors' sound business judgment and (iii) is in the best interests of the Parties and all parties in interest; and it is therefore

ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that:

- 1. The Motion is GRANTED.
- 2. Pursuant to Bankruptcy Code sections 105 and Bankruptcy Rule 9019, the Settlement Agreement is APPROVED in all respects.
- 3. Pursuant to Bankruptcy Code section 363, the Debtors are hereby authorized to remit the Settlement Payment in accordance with the Settlement Agreement.
- 4. The Debtors may take such actions and execute any documents necessary or appropriate to consummate the Settlement Agreement and the transactions contemplated thereby.
- 5. Notwithstanding the possible applicability of Bankruptcy Rules 6004(g), 7062, 9014, or otherwise, the terms and conditions of this Order shall be immediately effective and enforceable upon its entry.
- 6. The requirement under Local Rule 9013-1(G) of the Local Rules for the United States Bankruptcy

 Court for the Eastern District of Virginia to file a memorandum of law in connection with the Motion is hereby waived.

7. This Court retains jurisdiction to hear and determine all matters arising from or related to the Settlement Agreement and this Order.

Dated: Richmond, Virginia October ___, 2009

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE

WE ASK FOR THIS:

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Counsel to the Debtors and Debtors in Possession

CERTIFICATION OF ENDORSEMENT UNDER LOCAL RULE 9022-1(C)

Pursuant to Local Bankruptcy Rule 9022-1(C), I hereby certify that the foregoing proposed order has been endorsed by or served upon all necessary parties.

/s/ Douglas M. Foley

EXHIBIT A
Settlement Agreement

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Counsel to the Debtors and Debtors in Possession

> IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA RICHMOND DIVISION

- - - - - - - - x In re: : Chapter 11 CIRCUIT CITY STORES, INC., : Case No. 08-35653 (KRH) et al., Debtors. : Jointly Administered - - - - - - - x

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT AND STIPULATION BY AND AMONG THE DEBTORS AND THE PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

This settlement agreement and stipulation (this "Agreement") is entered into by and among the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (the "Debtors"), on the one hand, and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (the "PBGC" and together with the Debtors, the "Parties" and each of which is a "Party"), on the other hand.

GENERAL BACKGROUND

WHEREAS, on November 10, 2008 (the "Petition Date"), the Debtors each filed a voluntary petition in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern

District of Virginia (the "Court") under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"); and

WHEREAS, the Debtors have continued as debtors in possession pursuant to sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code; and

WHEREAS, on November 12, 2008, the Office of the United States Trustee for the Eastern District of Virginia appointed a statutory committee of unsecured creditors (the "Creditors' Committee"); and

WHEREAS, to date, no trustee or examiner has been appointed in these chapter 11 cases; and

WHEREAS, on January 16, 2009, the Court authorized the Debtors, among other things, to conduct going out of business sales at the Debtors' remaining 567 stores pursuant to an agency agreement (the "Agency Agreement") between the Debtors and a joint venture, as agent (the "Agent"). On January 17, 2009, the Agent commenced going out of business sales pursuant to the Agency Agreement at the Debtors remaining stores. As of on or about March 8, 2009, the going out of business sales concluded; and

SETTLEMENT BACKGROUND

A. The Debtors' Pension Plan.

WHEREAS, the Debtors previously maintained the Retirement Plan of Circuit City Stores, Inc. (as amended, the "Pension Plan") to provide retirement benefits for certain of its employees. The Pension Plan was established effective September 1, 1980, and was amended and restated as of March 1, 2001; and

WHEREAS, the Pension Plan is an employee pension benefit plan to which 29 U.S.C. § 1321(a) applies and is not exempt under 29 U.S.C. § 1321(b). The Pension Plan is therefore covered by Title IV of the

Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, 29 U.S.C. §§ 1301-1461 ("ERISA"); and

B. Termination Of The Pension Plan.

WHEREAS, on or about April 20, 2009, the PBGC provided the Debtors with a Notice of Determination, stating PBGC's determination that the Pension Plan had to be terminated in order to protect the interests of the Pension Plan's participants and stating its intention to seek termination of the Pension Plan under 29 U.S.C. section 1342, either by agreement with Debtor, Circuit City Stores, Inc., as plan administrator, or by court action; and

WHEREAS, on May 21, 2009, the Pension Plan administrator signed a Termination and Trusteeship Agreement ("Termination Agreement") with respect to the Pension Plan. PBGC signed the Termination agreement on or about May 26, 2009. Under the Termination Agreement, the Pension Plan was terminated and PBGC was appointed statutory trustee of the Pension Plan pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 1342, and March 31, 2009 (the "Termination Date"), was established as the date of plan termination pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 1348. As a result of the Pension

Plan termination and PBGC's appointment as statutory trustee, PBGC assumed the assets and liabilities of the Pension Plan and is responsible for paying benefits under the Pension Plan, up to the levels permitted by law; and

WHEREAS, on the Termination Date, the Pension Plan had approximately 22,000 participants. No due and unpaid contributions were owed to the Pension Plan, but PBGC estimated that the difference between the present value of Pension Plan assets on March 31, 2009, and the value of benefit liabilities under the plan as determined under Title IV of ERISA (the "Unfunded Benefit Liabilities") as of March 31, 2009, was \$36,900,000.00.

C. The PBGC Claims.

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2009, PBGC filed three proofs of claim, which claims it later amended, in each of the Debtors' cases (collectively, the "PBGC Claims"). Specifically, the PBGC filed amended proofs of claim numbered (i) 14470 (the "Minimum Funding Claim"), (ii) 14491 (the "Unfunded Benefit Liabilities Claim"), and

(iii) 14471 (the "Premium Claim"), each of which is asserted individually against each of the Debtors; and

WHEREAS, PBGC contends that the Debtors are jointly and severally liable for all of the PBGC Claims; and

WHEREAS, the Minimum Funding Claim was filed on account of minimum contributions allegedly due, but unpaid, under the Pension Plan. PBGC filed such Claim, in the amount of \$0.00, but reserved its right to further amend the proof of claim; and

WHEREAS, the Unfunded Benefit Liabilities

Claim asserts liability for the Pension Plan's alleged

Unfunded Benefit Liabilities measured as of March 31,

2009 -- the date of the Pension Plan's termination.

Based on PBGC's calculation under ERISA and its

accompanying regulations (the "Regs"), PBGC alleges that

the Pension Plan's Unfunded Benefit Liabilities are

\$36,900,000.00. The Debtors disagree with PBGC's

contentions; and

WHEREAS, the Premium Claim was bifurcated into two claims -- the Annual Premium Claim and the Termination Premium Claim. The Annual Premium Claim was

filed as an administrative expense and seeks payment of annual flat-rate and variable-rate premiums allegedly arising under 29 U.S.C. § 1306(a)(3) after the petition date. The flat-rate premium is a flat dollar amount per participant per year, which is currently \$33.00. 29 U.S.C. § 1306(a)(3)(A). The variable-rate premium is \$9.00 for each \$1,000.00 of the plan's unfunded vested benefits each year. 29 U.S.C. § 1306(a)(3)(E). PBGC asserts that the total amount of unpaid flat-rate and variable-rate premiums for the Pension Plan equals \$159,076.00. The Debtors assert that the PBGC has not satisfied its burden of demonstrating that the Annual Premiums should be afforded administrative expense priority; and

WHEREAS, the Termination Premium Claim was filed on account of termination premiums allegedly due under 29 U.S.C. § 1306(a)(7) (the "Termination Premiums"). See Statement of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation in Support of its Amended Claim for Pension Insurance Premiums, at ¶ 7. Termination Premiums total \$1,250 for each participant in a pension plan immediately before the plan termination, and are

due for a period of three years. In the case of the Pension Plan, there were approximately 22,000 participants prior to its termination. Based on these figures, PBGC asserts that the Debtors are liable for Termination Premiums totaling \$82,091,250.00. The Debtors disagree and contend that the Termination Premium Claim should be disallowed in its entirety; and

WHEREAS, rather than proceed with litigation concerning the PBGC Claims, the parties engaged in good faith, arms' length negotiations to resolve the PBGC Claims in their entirety.

NOW THEREFORE, for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties hereby STIPULATE AND AGREE as follows:

- 1. PBGC shall have an allowed claim equal to \$33.5 million in case no. 08-35653 (KRH)which shall be paid in the full amount of \$33.5 million (the "Settlement Payment").
- 2. The entire Settlement Payment shall be paid to PBGC within ten business days after entry of an order by the Bankruptcy Court approving this Agreement.

- 3. Upon payment of the Settlement Payment, the PBGC Claims, together with any other claims obligations, suits, judgments, damages, demands, debts, rights, causes of action, and liabilities against the Debtors (or Digital Video Express, LP or the Debtors' foreign affiliates) held by PBGC, shall be deemed fully and finally satisfied.
- 4. The PBGC will neither vote to accept nor reject the Joint Plan of Liquidation of Circuit City Stores, Inc. and its Affiliated Debtors and Debtors In Possession and its Official Committee of Creditors Holding General Unsecured Claims (as amended from time to time, the "Plan").
- 5. The Debtors will add the following language to the Plan:

notwithstanding anything in the Plan or the Confirmation Order, no claims, obligations, suits, judgments, damages, demands, debts, rights, causes of action or liabilities whatsoever against any entity, except the Debtors, Digital Video Express, LP, and the Debtors' foreign affiliates, with respect to the Pension Plan shall be released, exculpated, discharged, enjoined, or otherwise effected by the Plan, nor shall the entry of the Confirmation Order constitute the approval of any release, exculpation, discharge, injunction, or other impairment of any claims obligations, suits, judgments, damages, demands, debts, rights, cause

of action or liabilities whatsoever against any entity, except the Debtors, Digital Video Express, LP, and the Debtors' foreign affiliates, with respect to the Pension Plan.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in paragraph 5 of this Agreement, the Plan or the Confirmation Order, PBGC hereby releases, waives, and discharges the Debtors' directors and officers from and against all claims, obligations, suits, judgments, damages, demands, debts, rights, causes of action, and liabilities with respect to the Pension Plan; provided, however, that nothing herein shall constitute a release, waiver, or discharge of any such claims, obligations, suits, judgments, damages, demands, debts, rights, causes of action, or liabilities arising under Title I of ERISA for breaches of fiduciary duty (the "Preserved Claim") against the Debtors' directors or officers; provided, however, damages, if any, from the Preserved Claim shall, at most, be limited to and capped at the difference between (i) the Settlement Payment and (ii) the Pension Plan's total unfunded benefit liabilities as determined in accordance with ERISA. Nothing in this paragraph or this Agreement shall be construed as or

constitute an admission of liability for the Preserved Claim or otherwise by the Debtors' directors or officers.

- 7. Neither this Agreement, nor any statement made or action taken in connection with the negotiation of this Agreement, shall be offered or received in evidence or in any way referred to in any legal action or administrative proceeding among or between the parties hereto, other than as may be necessary (a) to obtain approval of and to enforce this Settlement Agreement or (b) to seek damages or injunctive relief in connection therewith.
- 8. Each of the Parties hereto shall execute and deliver any and all additional papers, documents and other assurances, and shall do any and all acts and things reasonably necessary or appropriate in conjunction with the performance of their respective obligations hereunder.
- 9. No provision of this Settlement Agreement is intended to confer any rights, benefits, remedies, obligations or liabilities hereunder upon any person

other than the parties hereto and their respective successors.

- 10. Except where preempted by applicable

 Federal law, this Agreement shall be governed by and

 construed in accordance with the internal laws of the

 Commonwealth of Virginia without regard to any choice of

 law provisions.
- 11. This Agreement may be signed in counterpart originals and delivered by facsimile or email, which, when fully executed, shall constitute a single original.
- 12. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement and understanding of the parties regarding the Agreement and the subject matter thereof.
- 13. The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia shall retain exclusive jurisdiction (and the parties consent to such retention of jurisdiction) with respect to any disputes arising from or related to, or other actions to interpret, administer or enforce the terms and provisions of, this Agreement.

- 14. Each person or entity who executes this
 Settlement Agreement on behalf of another person or
 entity represents and warrants that he, she, or it is
 duly authorized to execute this Agreement on behalf of
 such person or entity, has the requisite authority to
 bind such person or entity, and such person or entity
 has full knowledge of and has consented to this
 Agreement. The representations and warranties set forth
 in this paragraph shall survive execution of this
 Agreement.
- 15. This Agreement shall not be modified, altered, amended or vacated without the written consent of all parties hereto or order of the Bankruptcy Court.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Agreement is hereby

executed as of the later of the dates set forth below.

ACCEPTED AND AGREED TO BY:

CIRCUIT CITY STORES, INC.

By:

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- and -

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- and -

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Counsel for Circuit City Stores, Inc., et al., Debtors and Debtors-in-Possession

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

By: /s/ Sara B. Eagle

Dated: October 5, 2009

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